

Mr. & Mrs. Michael E. Tripp, Sr.
104 Bentwood Drive
Waterbury, CT 06705
(203) 841-9574

Testimony in Support of
S.B. No. 336, 'An Act Concerning the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit'

Before the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

As parents of a current seventh grade student, as well as a 2011 graduate of SS. Peter and Paul School, we strongly support S.B. No. 336.

Our family consciously chose to enroll our children in Ss. Peter & Paul School (since 2002) based on demonstrated quality education, committed administration, spiritual reinforcement, and diverse experience allowed all students. Our family represents several generations of alumni of Ss. Peter & Paul School and parishioners of Ss. Peter & Paul Church in our neighborhood East End community.

It is imperative to maintain a tax-credit program to support Sts. Peter & Paul School in maintaining its enrollment numbers and its socio-economic diversity. The boost from the tax-credit program enables increased enrollment. Logically speaking, sufficient enrollment ultimately allows for self-sustaining programs for future years. As the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committees may likely be aware, the population in Connecticut is declining and frequently results in the increasing consolidation of inter-district Catholic and other non-public schools. Further, unlike higher education, elementary, middle-, and high-school non-public school tuition does not allow for a tax credit for families.

With two children having simultaneously attending Waterbury Catholic schools through elementary school and our oldest through high school and now attending a Connecticut State University, we have been proud recipients of scholarships through Sts. Peter & Paul for several years. These scholarships have provided us the opportunity to stretch our tuition dollars to accommodate expenses that arise outside of traditional tuition costs such as invaluable before- and after-care programs, hot lunch, uniforms, and supplies that are ordinarily inclusive in a public school experience. Perhaps, most importantly, receipt of scholarships has allowed opportunities for our children to become more invested by actively contributing not only through attendance but by taking ownership in their educational institutions and communities.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to support S.B. No. 336.

Respectfully,